

## **John Heyer on Gay Marriage, in his own words**

John Heyer, on gay marriage, in his own words (from a written statement he made, that was posted on Only the Blog Knows Brooklyn):

"With regard to gay marriage: I am advocating for a wholesale change to the law under which the state would offer legal unions for all couples, regardless of gender or sexual orientation. Under this system, "marriages" would be performed only by spiritual institutions, and would carry no legal weight.

**This would achieve the goal of total marriage equality ... The point is: I do support total equality of rights for all couples. This is my stance."**

Here is a video of him expressing this position:

[http://www.brooklynpaper.com/stories/32/21/32\\_21\\_gk\\_heyer\\_podcast.html](http://www.brooklynpaper.com/stories/32/21/32_21_gk_heyer_podcast.html)

In this interview, he says:

"I'm not conservative. I would never consider myself a conservative ... I'm more progressive [on the gay marriage issue] than Barack Obama."

He makes clear that he would allow a gay marriage performed by any spiritual institution (even one registered on the internet) to be considered a "marriage." A marriage ceremony, he says, could be "whatever you like"

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From the perspective of the Orthodox Jewish community, he has the same position as Brad Lander – that the government should treat gay & straight couples in the same way, from a legal/civil perspective, but that religious institutions should be totally allowed to practice and live according to their values, and that no rabbi, *shul*, *yeshiva*, or religious organizations would ever be required to perform or recognize a same-sex marriage.